Game Changers:

Programs and Practices that are Shaping the Field

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National Summer Learning Association

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NSLA's mission is to connect and equip schools, providers, communities and families to deliver high-quality summer learning opportunities to our nation's youth to help close the achievement gap and support healthy development.

NSLA seeks to:

- Improve the quality of summer learning opportunities
- Expand access to summer learning
- Increase demand for summer learning

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Today's Objectives:

- Become familiar with summer learning research and program quality indicators
- Discuss game changing ideas from programs across the country
- Walk away with ideas and tools for using research-based quality indicators to continuously improve your program

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Game Changer (noun):

- An event, idea, or procedure that effects a significant shift in the current way of doing or thinking about something.
- Something that changes the landscape.
- An “a-ha” moment where you see something others don’t.

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Game Changer "SMARTS"

Forbes says:

Game Changers are Simple, Marketable, Actionable, Relational, Transformative, Scalable

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Stakeholder Stakeout

- Parents
- Staff/Teachers
- Youth

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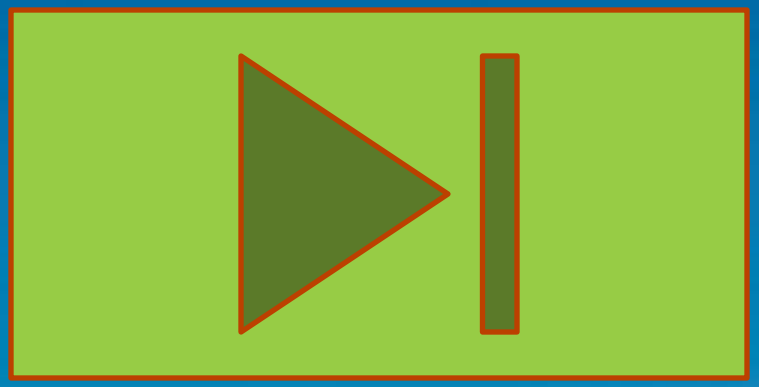

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The Effects of Summer Learning Loss

- Since 1906, numerous studies have confirmed that children experience learning losses in math and reading without continued opportunities for skill building over the summer (White, Heyns, Cooper, Downey, Alexander)
- More than half of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olson, 2007)
- Summer learning losses have later life consequences, including high school curriculum placement, high school dropout, and college attendance (ibid.)

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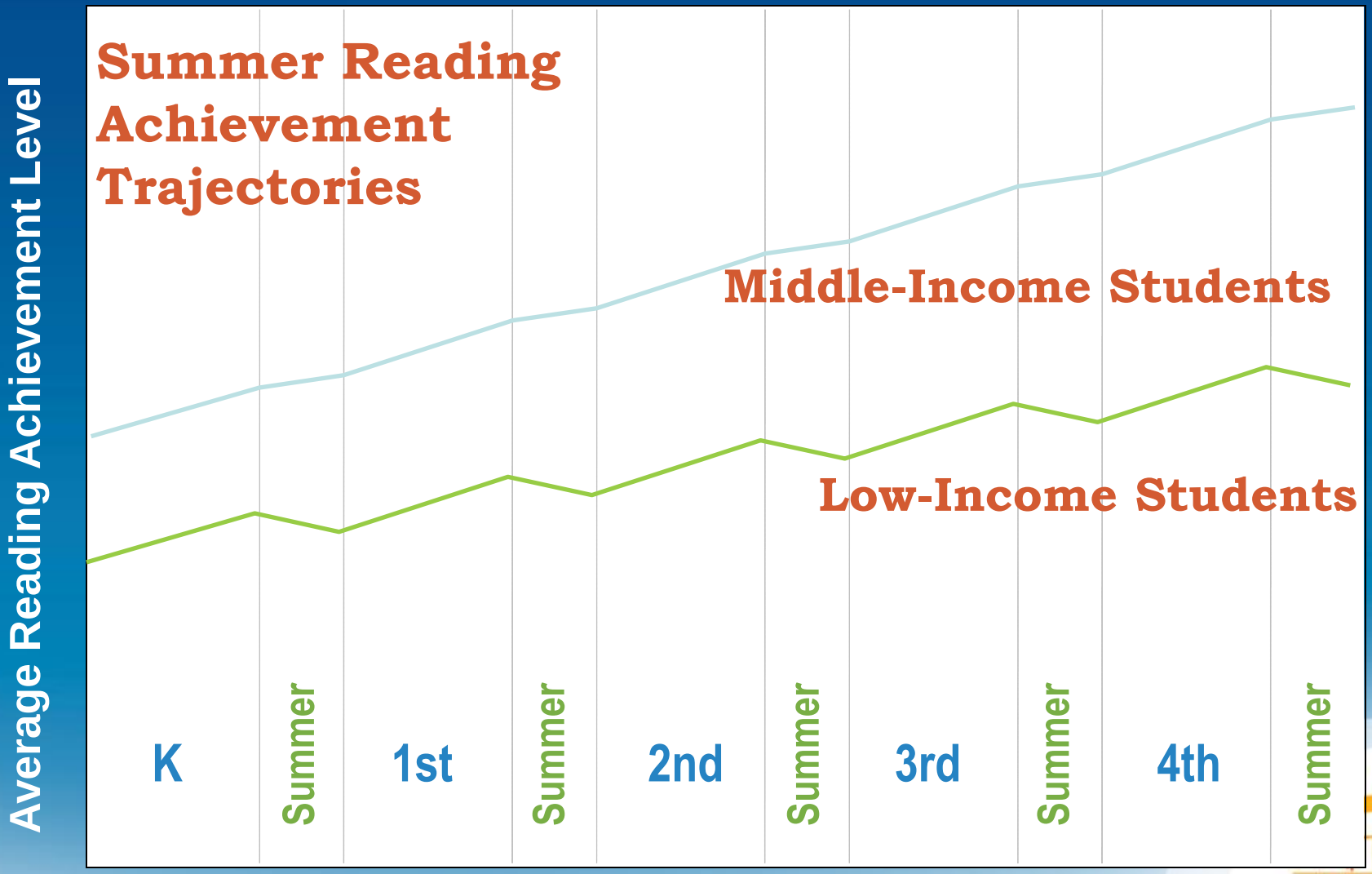
SUMMER LEARNING AND THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP



Source: Adapted from Borman, G.D. (2000). The effects of summer school: Questions answered, questions raised. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 65* (1, Serial N. 260).

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What is the Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs?

(and where did it come from?)

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CASP Development

- Research from the fields of summer learning, afterschool, youth development, non-profit management and K-12 education
- NSLA's database of site visit reports
- Excellence Award applications
- In-depth interviews with program staff

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CASP Development

- 80 Indicators of quality on a 4-point rating scale
- Interview and Observation tools collect information for feedback reports
- National review of content validity
- Used in more than 200 program sites to date

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Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

Program Infrastructure

PURPOSE

PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

PLANNING

STAFF

PARTNERSHIPS

Point-of-Service

INDIVIDUALIZED

INTENTIONAL

INTEGRATED

UNIQUE PROGRAM CULTURE

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Quick Reference Guide

- Organized by domain
- Includes the level 4 rating for each indicator

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Game Changer #1

Integrated Facilitation

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Providence Public Schools

AfterZone Summer Scholars Program Goals

- Engage students fully in a summer experience, connect them to caring adults and provide them with a new set of experiences and a sense of belonging
- Increase students' level of engagement during the fall semester following the program, including increased engagement in the AfterZone at their school and in their classrooms, especially in STEM subject areas.
- Increase students' sense of competence overall as learners as well as specifically in math and science.
- Increase student performance in key targeted mathematic skills.

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Integrated Facilitation

- Teaching teams consist of a district teacher, a community-based STEM educator, and an AfterZone staff member (pre-service teacher) to co-teach a 4-week curriculum.

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Integrated Facilitation

- Blended instruction combines positive youth development with experiential learning.
  - Hands-on learning experiences to build critical thinking skills in STEM subjects.

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Integrated Facilitation

- Teams engage in intensive joint planning before the program begins.

- PASA's STEM Learning Community—a group of STEM community organizations, district math and science teachers, and faculty from Rhode Island College—serve as peer coaches in the planning process

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Joint Planning/Training

Title	Citywide #	Training Hours
Generalist Teachers	30	25
Community Educators	30	30
AZ Facilitators	30	35
Math Specialists	15	30
Total	105	

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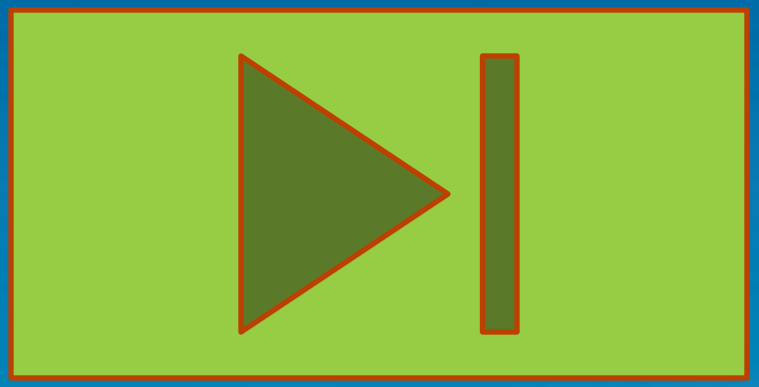

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Providence Teachers

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veoHYL_cS9I&feature=youtu.be (3:35-5:40)

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Game Changer #2

Rallies and Ceremonies

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Rallies and Ceremonies

- Daily Rallies
- Recognition Ceremonies

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OASIS

Morning Rally!

RED

Pump, pump, pump it up!

Pump that red team spirit up!

Keep, keep, keep it up!

Keep that red team spirit up!

Shout, shout, shout it out!

Shout that red team spirit out!

Gooooo summer learning!

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BLUE

I don't know but I've been told (repeat)

The blue team's looking mighty bold (repeat)

I don't know but it's been said (repeat)

In summer camp my wings will spread (repeat)

Sound Off!.....SUM-MER!

Sound Off!.....LEARN-ING!

Sound Off!...SUM-MER LEARN-ING IS GREAT!

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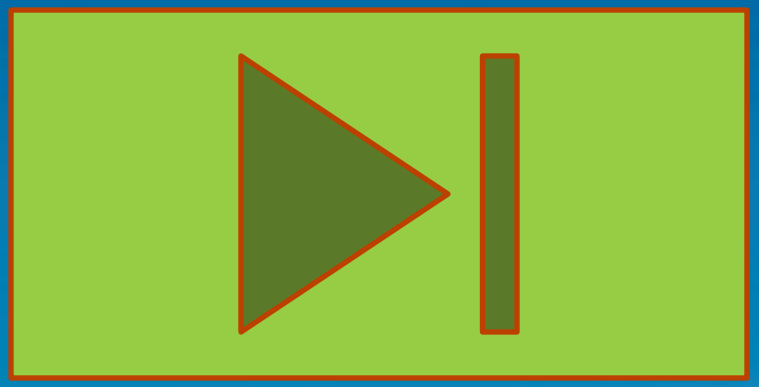

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Game Changer #3

Book-Based Theme

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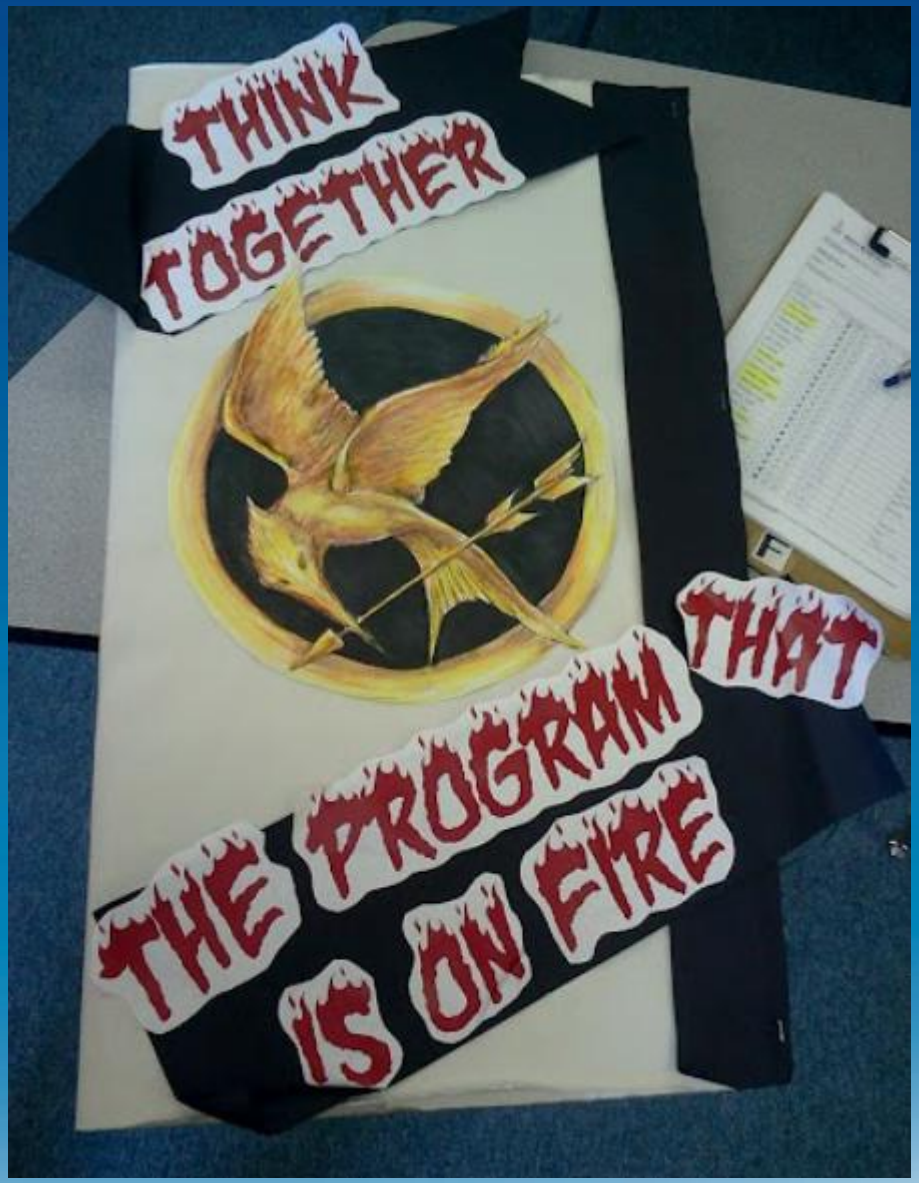

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Books provide:

- Setting- time period, location
- Characters
- Culture
- Conflicts and resolutions

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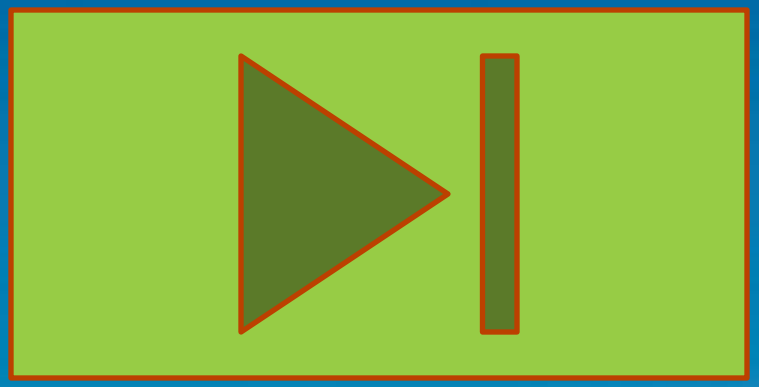

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Video: http://www.thinktogether.org/think-togethers-middle-school-students-in-los-angeles-re-enact-the-hunger-games/ (1:06)

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Game Changer #4

Parent Workshops

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Parent Workshops

Springboard Collaborative, Philadelphia

- Weekly one-hour parent workshops,
  - Learn to pick a “just right” book and what to ask before, during and after reading together
- Weekly communication logs
- Parents demonstrate what they’ve learned in culminating event
- Incentives for families

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Parent Workshops

Results:

- 76% of students met or exceeded reading goals.
- Average 3 month reading gain in 5 week program
- Incentives got parents in the door- 91% attendance rate.

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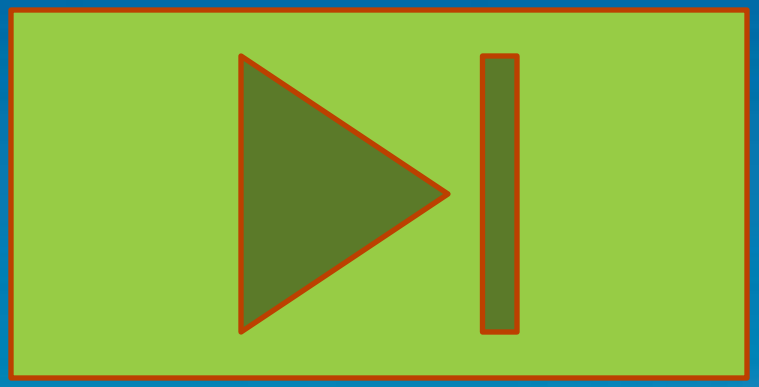

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Springboard Parents

http://vimeo.com/48386810

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Game Changer #5

Digital Media Production

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Digital Media Production

Youth as *producers*, not just consumers of web-based and digital media

Global Kids- Race to the White House Program

- Youth brainstorm relevant election issues and plant them via geocaches in New York City
- Fellow geocachers can decide to move them closer to the White House if they think the issue is important

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Digital Media Production

Digital Youth Network: Mentors, in school, afterschool and online curriculum

www.digitalyouthnetwork.org

YouMedia Chicago: Model for library programs nationwide. Online magazine.

www.youmediachicago.org

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Digital Media Production

Mozilla Webmaker offers free authoring tools and software:

- From supercharging web video with Popcorn, to exploring and remixing with the X-Ray Goggles, to making your own web pages with Thimble.

"Like a Swiss Army knife or 'superhero utility belt' for webmaking."

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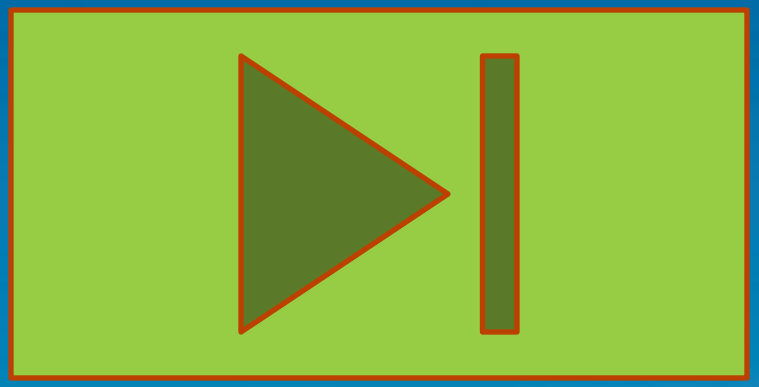

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Download the guide:

www.summerbestpractices.org

BEST PRACTICES

in Summer Learning Programs for Middle and High School Youth

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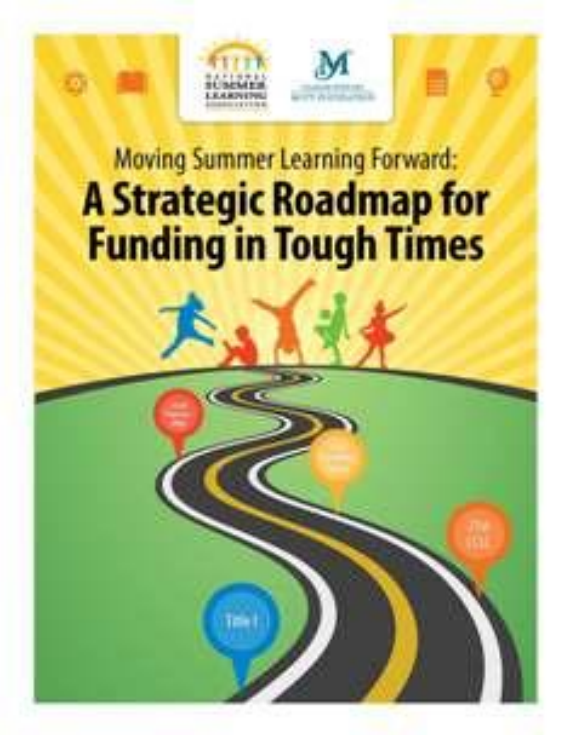
NEW YORK LIFE

New York Life Foundation

Resource on Summer Funding



NSLA's latest resource, *Moving Summer Learning Forward: A Strategic Roadmap for Funding in Tough Times*, includes:

- Descriptions of and links to applicable federal, state, and local funding streams
- Examples of how to use local partnerships and private funding to leverage public resources
- Spotlighted strategies and examples of funding in action
- Case studies of how high-quality district and community - based summer learning programs obtained funding

Download at summerlearning.org/funding

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Summer Learning Day is a grassroots movement to spread awareness about the issue of summer learning loss among parents and policymakers.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT ON
Friday, June 21, 2013

www.summerlearning.org/SLD

#SLD2013

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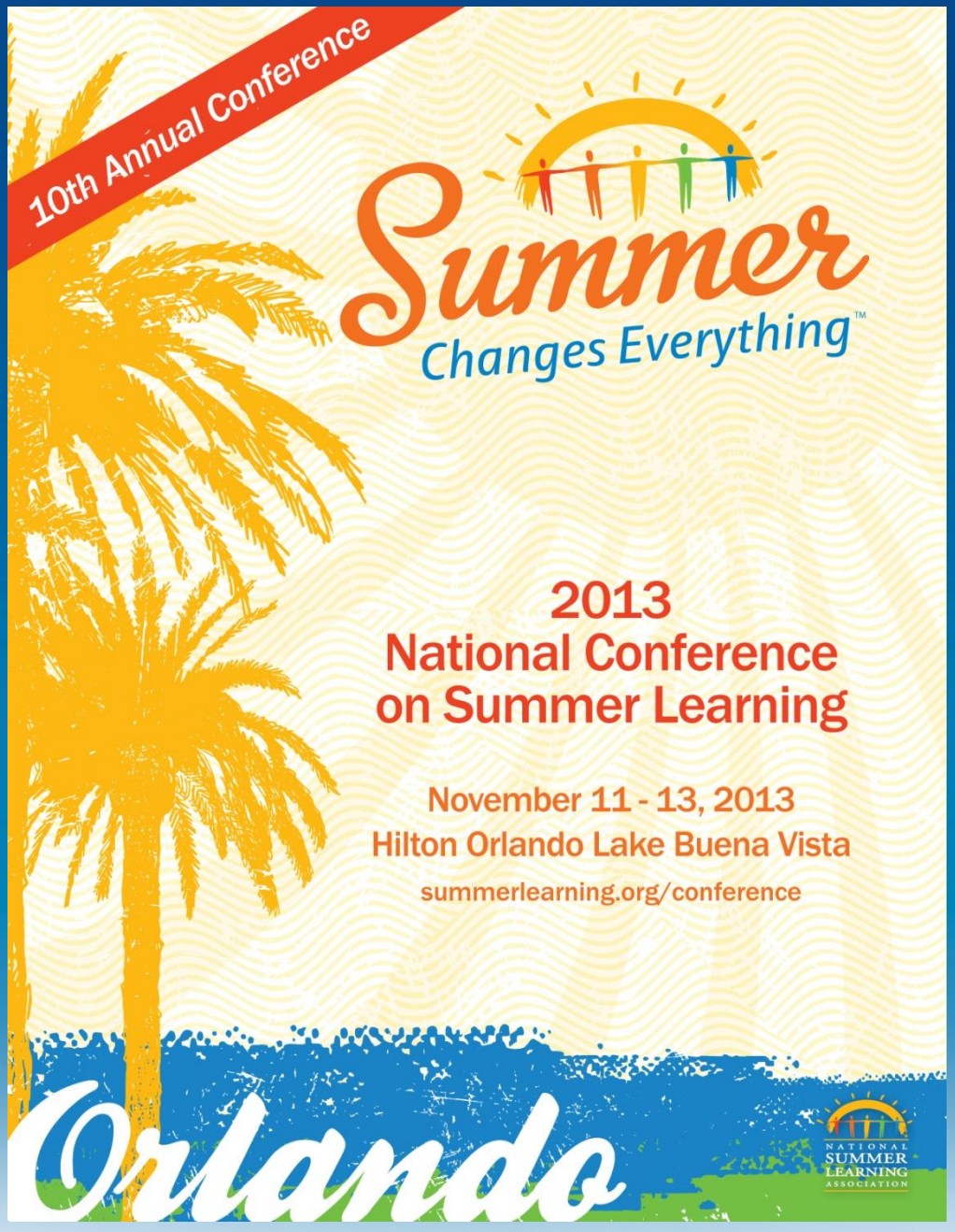

"Advancing Outcomes for Youth: Demonstrating Your Value in a Data-Driven Age."

REGISTER TODAY!
summerlearning.org/conference

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CLOSING ACTIVITY

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THANK YOU!

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